Distribution of Gas by Foreign Companies

1027. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign companies offering to invest in Oil and Gas exploration in India, are demanding the right of distribution of the products explored ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what are the reasons for demanding distribution rights ;

(d) whether Government are considering any change in the existing distribution system ; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to entrust the distribution work to multinational companies ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The bids received in the Fourth Round are still under examination.

(d) to (e) There is no such proposal at present.

Passenger Oriented Facilities

1028. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have objected to the proposals of Ministry of Surface Transport for setting up passenger-oriented facilities on the National Highways ;

(d) if so, the details of investments and

(c) what is the status of these proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No final decision has yet been taken.

Flaring of Gas

1029. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large volume of petroleum gas continues to be flared up by the ONGC both at offshore and on-shore oil wells ;

(b) if so, the quantum of gas burnt annually and its cost at prevailing prices ;

(c) wrether any measures were taken to diverting the petroleum gas and channelising if for positive use, instead of flaring up, during the last five year plan ;

(d) if so, the details of in estments made for this purpose during the last plan period *vis-a-vis* quantum of gas tapped, year-wise ;

(e) what is the number of registration for LPG connections pending as on January, 1992; and

(f) the amount required to be invested to clear all the pending demand ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Approximately 3800 million cu. mts., valued at approx. Rs. 520 crores, at the prices prevalent in 1991-92.

(c) Laying of pipeline for gas collection and its transportation, installation of gas compressors, marketing efforts in the N.E. region utilisation by ONGC to meet its requirements of power, heat, artificial lift etc., increasing recovery of LPG/NGL etc. and interconnecting various producing fields through gas grids are amongst the steps taken to increase the utilisation of natural gas.

(d) Approx. Rs. 1350 crores.

(e) 84.89 lakhs approx.

(f) The amount of investment would depend on the type of facility to be created viz. manufacturing capacity in the country or the facility for augmenting imports.